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Public Information Office: +93 (0)70-234-236 x4369

E-mail: kabulusaidinformation@usaid.gov

http://afghanistan.usaid.gov

FACT SHEET

Health Service Delivery

OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), together with the donor community, began developing the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in 2002. At the time, Afghanistan had some of the worst health status indicators ever recorded worldwide. The majority of the population had little or no access to even the most basic healthcare. The BPHS delineates the services that should be provided by each type of healthcare facility, and specifies the staff, equipment, diagnostic services, and medications required to provide those services. This was the first step to modernizing and improving the country's healthcare system.

Performance-based Partnership Grants with 16 local and international NGOs support the implementation of the BPHS in 13 provinces and the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) in five provincial hospitals. The EPHS complements the BPHS and governs hospital care in major urban centers. Provinces include: Badakhshan, Baghlan, Bamyan, Faryab, Ghazni, Hirat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Paktya, Paktika, and Takhar. Funding for the BPHS and EPHS in the remaining 21 provinces is provided by World Bank and the European Community.

The BPHS and EPHS are credited with unifying the priorities and bringing coherence to the Afghan health system. The BPHS and EPHS have also standardized the classification of health facilities and increased the proportion of the population with access to basic health services to more than 82 percent. To improve alignment with the aid effectiveness principles of the Paris Declaration, USAID will directly fund the MoPH to manage the NGO Partnership Contracts for Health beginning in November 2009.

ACTIVITIES

- **BPHS funding in 13 provinces** Supporting health service delivery in 5,378 health posts, 450 health facilities, 36 sub-health centers, 232 basic health centers, 148 comprehensive health centers, seven comprehensive health centers and/or small district hospitals, and 21 district hospitals.
- EPHS funding in five provinces Supporting tertiary healthcare in five provincial hospitals.

RESULTS

- Provides BPHS services in 13 provinces, which accounts for 40 percent of Afghanistan's territory, but 50 percent of the total population.
- Contraceptive prevalence and the presence of skilled attendants (doctors or midwives) at birth have tripled.
- Use of antenatal care has increased six-fold.
- The under-five mortality rate has decreased by 26 percent.